INSIST ON

Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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HELP THE MINERS.

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking copper miners of Calumet.

WEST VIRGINIA PROBE ENDS

Washington, March 14.—The report of the Senate subcommittee that investigated the West Virginia coal strike has been filed in the Senate by Senator Swanson, chairman of the committee. The committee makes no recommendations, as it was not authorized to do so under the resolution, but the document submitted is a scathing arraignment of the West Virginia authorities and operators. The state and civil authorities are criticised for failure to check unlawful actions and for permitting military courts-martial to send men to the penitentiary while courts of the state were in session. The report says, among other things:

"As these unhappy conditions no longer exist, as the differences between the contending parties have been amicably adjusted and an agreement entered into for several years, and as peace and confidence now prevail, work and business having been resumed, the committee does not consider it wise or necessary to elaborate upon the many causes which produced these deplorable conditions. Among the contributing causes may be enumerated the following: The failure of the operators in the Paint Creek district to renew their expiring contract with the United Mine Workers; the determination of the coal operators under no circumstances to recognize the miners as an organization or union, and the equal determination of the miners to organize and form a union—a right, as they claim, guaranteed to them without discrimination by the laws of West Virginia; the employment by the operators of mine guards, many of whom were aggressive and arbitrary; mine guards in the employment of the operators acting as deputy sheriffs and clothed with the authority of the law, the failure of the civil authorities to attempt even to preserve peace and order at the beginning of violence and permitting things to drift from bad to worse without vigorous interference and assertion of authority; discontent among the miners occasioned by no opportunity to purchase homes; no cemeteries except upon the company's grounds; postoffices located in the company's stores; private roads only to the schools and stores; the disposition of the coal operators to keep strict espionage of all strangers who entered the district and to exercise their right of private ownership of this large district and to exclude from it all persons objectionable to them—these may be stated as some of the immediate contributing causes."

AGAIN THE LITERACY TEST.

Boston, March 14.—In a recent issue the Evening Transcript of this city comments as follows on a much-disputed section of the Burnitt immigration bill, now pending in the United States Senate:

"No one claims that the literacy test is an ideal restrictive measure. It is merely an available and useful auxiliary. The present law prohibits, as far as possible, the obviously unfit and undesirable. The literacy test is resorted to for the purpose of reducing the number of immigrants, rather than to shut out a new and dangerous class. So far from being un-American in spirit, it really represents the belief of our people in the necessity of education as an essential factor in the making of good citizens. It is in line with our compulsory school laws, which impose school attendance upon all children under certain ages. When we are confronted with the necessity of cutting down the number of those whose admission in such hordes acts as an undertow, pulling down the standard of wages and living, and therefore of citizenship, is it not natural that preference be given under the law to those who can read, not necessarily English, but one language or dialect of the many that are spoken around the world? Contrary to the many misrepresentations of this test, heard in the last gubernatorial campaign, its application would sever no family relationships, for its exemptions include those fleeing from religious or racial persecution, and also the mother, wife or grandmother or father and grandfather over fifty-five years of age."

ATTACK "COMPANY" STORES.

Hazelton, Penn., March 14.—Officers of the United Mine Workers have presented evidence to the state attorney general that mine operators have been maintaining "company" stores in this section, and the unionists insist that criminal proceedings be started against these violators of law. While the miners do not charge that open coercion is used on behalf of the stores, they say that those who fail to patronize these places hear of it in numerous ways. Recently the home of a woman was sold by the sheriff to pay a bill of goods contracted at one of these stores. The miners say she was denied the privilege of taking advantage of the $300 law, as provided by statute. The workers have secured an attorney to aid them.

WANT LAW REPEALED.

Trenton, N. J., March 14.—The president of every railroad in New Jersey has signed a formal petition to the state legislature asking for the repeal of the "full crew" law, which provides that the size of a crew shall be determined by the number of cars in each train. The railroad officials say it "works a great hardship, and the law has already caused a wasteful expense equal to the annual interest on at least $7,394,607 of capital." The law was passed last year after a long campaign by the railroad brotherhoods, who were aided by the trade union movement.

A FINE TRIBUTE.

Yonkers, N. Y., March 14.—In referring to thanks extended by organized labor to the Daily News, of this city, that paper pays a tribute to the trade union movement, which, in part, is as follows: "While on the subject of labor, and with the memory of the kindness shown, we would like to state now, for the benefit of those who do not get along with organized labor, that the editor of the News has maintained a strictly union office since the Printers' union was organized in this city. For many years our associations have continued pleasant and mutually profitable. After all, labor is a commodity which has a right to seek the highest market, and does so, but the laborer has more than his work to offer. Association and mutual helpfulness create friendships which count for more than mere dollars in the lives which most of us live. During all the years that our shop has run under union rules not a single disagreement has arisen between employer and employe. We have found that the union is willing to meet more than half way the employer who means to be fair."

NEWS FROM BOSTON.

Boston, March 14.—One of the largest laundries in this section has accepted the new agreement of its workers. A general wage advance is made, also better working conditions. Officers of the Grocery and Provision Clerks' union, affiliated to the Retail Clerks' union, announce that many stores are agreeing to their shorter hour schedule. Stationary Firemens' union, No. 243, is enforcing its short hour day without trouble, and has secured the consent of several large establishments to hereafter recognize the union's working conditions. Machinists employed in the printing press and paper making machinery industry are agitating for an eight-hour day. Steam Engineer officials, who have visited a number of their locals throughout the state, report a healthy growth which has resulted in wage increases and general betterments. Conferences by the street car company and telegraphers in the dispatching offices and in the towers has resulted in another offer by the company. A two-cent-an-hour offer was declined by the men on the ground that they now receive less than one-half as much pay as the steam roads, which handle less trains. The men are members of the Order of Railway Telegraphers. The Harness Makers' Union will ask for a Saturday half holiday from May 1 to Oct. 1, with a minimum wage of $19.50 for repair work and $15 for machine operators. Arbitration provisions are included in the new agreement. The union has 86 per cent of the eligible workers in this industry.

STRIKE AT DEPEW STILL ON.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 14.—At this writing all attempts to settle the Gould Coupler Works strike, at Depew, near here, has failed. The Iron Molders' refusal to consent to an increase of working time resulted in a strike, which the unorganized workers joined in. The company has announced it will no longer employ citizens of Depew, and is maintaining special trains to and from this city. This, together with the charge by the Gould management that citizens and the authorities of Depew are unfriendly to the company, is resented, and the citizens declare the company is disappointed because of a refusal to deny the strikers their constitutional rights. The strikers are maintaining perfect order. The State Board of Arbitration has been asked to investigate alleged violations of the law at the plant. Attorney Slee, who represents the company, is quoted as saying that the concern will stand by its original decision to maintain a nonunion shop and deal with the men only as individuals.

WON'T DESERT OFFICERS.

Hazelton, Pa., March 14.—Striking street car men have notified the mayor and common council of this city that negotiations to settle the street car strike are at an end, as far as they are concerned if the company persists in maintaining the position that members of the grievance committee of their local must be sacrificed. The union declines to reduce to writing its arguments until it is given assurance that all members will be returned to work without prejudice or discrimination. The strike has been on for several months and was caused by the discharge of active members of the street car men's local. Mass meetings of citizens have been held to consider the question. The company insists on the "right to run its own business," which the unionists deny when it comes to discharging men who represent their fellows in an effort to better working conditions.

AGAINST PAUPER TAINT.

Boston, March 14.—Trade unionists in this state are registering strong protest against the system of distributing charity to dependent mothers, and are insisting that amendments be adopted that will remove the taint of pauperism from mothers who take advantage of this law. The workers say that the red tape connected with the act encourages mothers to give up their children to the care of other people and go into the shops and factories to eke out a living. Protest is made against permitting mothers to place their children in nurseries while they are forced to labor. The proposed amendments, it is urged, will take many of the poor mothers out of the mills and place them in their homes, where they can care for their children.

NEWS FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

San Francisco, March 14.—The Chauffeurs' union has signed a three years' contract with one large concern. The work day has been reduced two hours a day. The daily wage rate is $3.50, and the commission basis of paying wages has been abandoned. The Labor Council has indorsed the culinary workers' efforts for the city to furnish the Board of Health sufficient money to maintain sanitary conditions in hotels and restaurants. On and after April 1 the Janitors' union will not allow its members to work more than eight hours in any of the theaters. The Laundry Workers union continues to increase its membership. It is now the largest of its kind in the world. The contract for the new labor temple has been awarded. Steel and concrete will be the materials used, and it is hoped to dedicate it next Labor day.

WON'T WORK WITH GUNMEN.

Indianapolis, March 14.—Jesse Howard, for several years an employe of the Indianapolis Street Car Company, has been discharged because he refused to operate a car with Earl A. Meehan, conductor, less than twenty-one years of age, who was given special police powers and used his gun indiscriminately on the trips. The Public Service Commission will probably be asked to pass on Howard's dismissal. The superintendent of police refused to give special police powers to Meehan and six others, but the request was later granted by the city board of safety. It is charged that the posse are strikebreakers and professional gunmen, who have been in this locality since the strike last fall.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Kansas City, March 14.—The Carpenters' District Council of this city has signed a two-year contract with the master builders, to take effect April 1, this year. The minimum wage will be 60 cents an hour for the first year and 65 cents an hour beginning April 1, 1915. This means an increase of 5 cents an hour for the first year and 10 cents an hour for the second year.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Philadelphia, March 14.—Drivers and teamsters employed by the Times in this city have signed an agreement with these workers which calls for an increase of $1.50 a week. Commenting on this strike the News-Post says: "If drivers are worth anything to a newspaper they are worth $2 a day, and this is miserable enough."

URGE A SANITARY PROPOSAL

Baltimore, March 14.—Cigarmakers in this city are creating sentiment in favor of a bill before the state legislature which would abolish the present system of sitting and standing on cigar molds. The union is sending letters to smokers explaining the present practice, which is often responsible for illness to smokers. The letter refers to the unsanitary and filthy methods employed in the making of cigars in some factories and says it would surprise many smokers if they knew they were "paying the price for strictly hand-made cigars and are getting cigars pressed in molds and pressed in a manner inimical to the health of the consumer." Referring to these factories, the unionists say:

"Cigarmakers are required to stand or sit upon the molds containing the unwrapped cigars in order to press them into the proper shape, and the exposed ends of the cigars collect germs thereby. Perhaps the cigarmaker, either male or female, in going to work may have stepped in the sputem of a consumptive and carried it into the shop. When standing upon the cigar mold the dirt and disease germs collected upon their shoes are transferred, without any way of prevention, to the exposed ends of the cigars. The system of sitting on molds is also injurious to the maker of cigars. The molds used are 4 1-2 by 12 inches. The cigarmaker sits upon these from eight to ten hours each day, and in many instances much longer. Reputable physicians have informed their patients that their particular ailment was due to the sitting for long hours on this 4 1-2-inch block."

AGAINST "RULE OF REASON."

Harrisburg, Pa., March 14.—Justice Brown, of the State Supreme Court, has entered vigorous protest against the so-called "rule of reason" practiced by courts, which consists of reading new words into laws enacted by the state legislature. Justice Brown's views were more emphatic than those of his colleagues, who upheld a verdict obtained in Allegheny county by Frank Wagner, foreman in the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing company, Pittsburgh, who was injured by the breaking of an unguarded emery wheel. Justice von Moschzisker, who wrote the majority opinion, said: "It was for the jury to say whether or not it was reasonably possible properly to guard this wheel." While concurring in affirming the verdict, Justice Brown said in dissent: "Not until now has this court ever held that machinery which the legislature in unequivocal words has declared shall be properly guarded, may be unguarded if it be impracticable to guard it."

LAWS FOR UNEMPLOYED.

Albany, N. Y., March 14.—"One of the purposes of government is to supply its citizens with information necessary to their welfare. There is no information more vital to the citizens of the state than knowledge of where he may obtain work to feed and clothe himself and dependents." This is one of the statements made by Gov. Glynn in a special message to the state legislature in which he urges the enactment into law of a measure he has prepared to aid the unemployed. The scheme is to create a new bureau of employment in the State Department of Labor, in charge of a director "of recognized executive and managerial ability and technical and scientific knowledge upon the subject of unemployed." It is further proposed to establish public employment bureaus at various points, the supreme director to be chosen by a civil service examination.

INDIANS FORM UNION.

Tacoma, Wash., March 14.—The noble red man is the latest to accept the principles of organization to remedy grievances which he claims Uncle Sam has failed to adjust. At a meeting in this city the Indians formed an association which has for its purpose their release from government by Indian agencies and for the free ownership of land on the same footing with the white man. In a speech old Chief Taholah proved to be an up-to-date agitator, and dramatically declared: "We are not slaves, but we are Americans, and we want recognition as Americans." The Indians cheered Prof. Benbow, county school official, who insisted that man was best fitted for the battle of life when he was not a dependent.

ALASKA GETS ITS ROAD.

Washington, March 14.—The Alaskan railway bill, providing for the construction of 1,000 miles of government railroad, and the expenditure of $35,000,000, has been passed by the Senate, and is now ready for President Wilson's signature. It is stated that the Chief Executive has indicated his willingness to sign the bill as soon as it reaches the White House, and the Department of the Interior is already engaged in drawing up plans for the construction of Uncle Sam's railroad, which will connect Alaska's coal fields with the Pacific coast.

TELEGRAPHERS ASK DAY OFF.

Maple Shade, N. J., March 14.—At a conference of telegraphers, representing every railroad in this State, it was decided to urge the adoption of a bill now pending in the State legislature which provides that each signalman, towerman, telegraph or telephone operator engaged in the transmission of train orders shall have two days off duty each month. A penalty of $100 is fixed for each violation. The Telegraphers are receiving the support of trade unionists, and they now propose to interest the churches in the movement.

NEW LAW IS SUCCESSFUL.

Sacramento, March 14.—The new California compensation law is being accepted by employers, many of whom have abandoned the idea of forcing their workers to meet the added cost, which officials are showing is intended to be placed on industry. Up to date more than 2,500 applications for insurance have been filed by employers whose payrolls amount to over $30,000,000.

WILL URGE UNION RATES.

Hamilton, Ont., March 14.—The Trades and Labor Council is urging the adoption by city officials of a "fair wage" clause in all city contracts. In this connection it is desired that it shall be set forth that contractors on city work shall be required to pay not less than the union rate where such exists, and not less than the minimum rate paid by the city in other cases.

CITY CHANGES PAY DAY.

Denver, March 14.—The semi-monthly city pay day will take effect next Monday, to the delight of 1,800 employes. The change is made as the result of an amendment to the city charter because of the thriving business done by loan agents among workers who were forced to wait a month for their pay.

URGE UNIFORMITY.

Washington, March 14.—Acting on authority given it by the last convention, A. F. of L. officials are considering the question of state uniformity of public school text-books, the preparation of a suggestive model law on this subject, and state ownership of school books copyrights. It is intended to give wide circulation to the conclusions reached in an effort to secure uniformity of school books in our public schools and put an end to the wasteful expenditure of the people's money through the power given district boards and county commissions to establish their own individual standards, with no regard for near-by sections or neighboring communities. The state ownership of copyrights would end a practice which the Seattle convention referred to as follows: "The prices charged for the text-books now in use in many of our public schools can only be designated as a legalized form of robbery." While considering these questions, the convention took a strong position against the low wages paid public school teachers, who are many times overburdened with large numbers of little children placed under their control. The convention further insisted "that a sufficient number of school-teachers be employed by our school authorities to give a reasonable degree of personal attention to each of our children intrusted to their care, and thereby enable teachers to qualify as a real teaching force and as conservators of the greatest wealth of our nation—our children."

EMPLOYERS SUGGEST FORCE

Seattle, Wash., March 14.—In its annual convention, held in this city, the Employers' Association of Washington outdid itself in denunciation of trade unions. The convention declared: "We will resist those selfish interests with thorough coercion." The nonunion shop—termed "open" by these employers—was given hearty indorsement, and the convention further resolved: "We shall defend the right of every workman to be free to dispose of his time and skill advantageously. We are strenuously opposed to lockouts, strikes, sympathetic strikes, boycotts, and kindred evils." It was at this point that the employers announced they were a law unto themselves and would apply "thorough coercion" in opposing trade unionists who insisted on the right to quit their employment any time they saw fit, or agree to withhold their purchasing power when they believed the occasion demanded. Local organized workers are answering the pretense of these "law and order" champions and show that their leading spirits have allowed their opposition to trade unionists to reach such a point that they will employ no member of a labor union, and that these business men were responsible for the importation of armed thugs and gunmen during the Teamsters' strike and also the street car strike three years ago. It is known that several meetings of nonunion shop employes have been held in this city within the past few weeks, when plans were discussed to renew the fight against organized labor. The activity of the trade union movement in this section in demanding more of the good things of life has caused these employers to imagine they can stay these efforts.

Seattle, March 14.—The Employers' Association, with its nonunion shop theories, received a hard jolt in the recent election, when three trade unionists, indorsed by the local movement, were elected. They are President Bolton and Business Agent Doyle of the Central Labor Council, for charter commissioners, and Robert Hasketh for member of the common council. The minimum wage of $2.75 per day for labor is extended to local improvement work.

NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE.

Washington, March 14.—The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives has refused to consider the charges against Justice Wright unless they are backed up by corroborative evidence. The committee reports that while it has no authority to investigate the charges made, it has the right to ask for such authority. This they decline to do on the statement of one man, and thereby create a precedent. Members of the committee say the case can be reopened any time when their conditions are complied with.

APPEAL IS DENIED.

Washington, March 14.—The United States Supreme Court has refused to grant a review of the conviction in the cases of President Ryan and twenty-three other members of the Structural Iron Workers Union, who were charged with conspiracy to carry explosives on interstate trains on which passengers were riding. It is claimed that the decision exhausts all means of court redress and only a pardon can now keep the convicted men from serving their terms.

CHANGED THEIR MINDS.

Everett, Wash., March 14.—Mill owners in this city have changed their minds about running nonunion establishments, which they declared would be the rule after March 4. The men reported for work on the fateful date, without a word said regarding union or nonunion shops. The mill owners delivered this ultimatum because of the strike of Timber Workers in one of the mills for better conditions.

WAGE BOOST FOR WIRE MEN.

Detroit, March 14.—Judge Arthur J. Tuttle, receiver for the Pere Marquette railroad system, has ordered wage increases for many telegraph operators on these lines. Wire men who receive commissions from express companies totaling at least $10 a month are not included. A petition for wage increases and hour reductions was filed by the operators last fall.

WOULD LICENSE OPERATORS.

Trenton, N. J., March 14.—The local Moving Picture Operators' union favors the passage of a state license law for workers in this calling, because of the practice of moving picture theater proprietors who employ children in the operation of machines, which endangers the lives of their patrons.

UNIONISM PAYS LABORERS

Joliet, Ill., March 14.—The success of Local 75 of the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers of America again illustrates the power of organization among working men and women, whether skilled or unskilled, and once again calls attention to the fact that all classes of workers are affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. The Joliet local has been conducting a vigorous organizing campaign and now has a membership of 250, which will be increased, its officers predict, to 400 by April 1. An agreement has been signed with the Master Masons' Building association which calls for 32 1-2 cents an hour for straight time from 7 to 5 o'clock, and 48 3-4 cents an hour for overtime, Sundays and holidays. This agreement runs for one year, and for the second year the scale will be 35 cents an hour with 52 1-2 cents an hour for overtime. The union is now arranging scales for its members who come under the head "common laborers," and conferences are being held with the master plasterers, sewer contractors, and stone quarry men. The rate for plasterers' helpers is a 5-cent an hour advance; for the sewer men and quarry workers, $2.50 for nine hours, and $2.75 for drill men. Members engaged in sweeping streets now receive $2 a day, and the union proposes to ask $2.25 for them. The success of this local shows that organization by wage-workers, regardless of their calling, skill or ability, and along lines advocated by the American Federation of Labor, will bring betterments that will result in happier lives and brighter homes.

EASTERN PRINTERS ADVANCE.

Boston, March 14.—Joseph J. Dallas, New England organizer for the International Typographical Union, reports gains in several New England cities. Providence newspaper printers have secured wage increases of $2 a week. In Fall River increases approximating $3 a week for hand men, higher overtime rates and other betterments were secured. In Fitchburg a general raise of $2 a week was conceded, and at Danbury, Conn., an increase of $1.50 will take effect immediately and another $1.50 in February of next year. The Typographical Union of this city has made a notable gain by securing an agreement with the large printing establishment of J. S. Cushing & Co. The firm agrees that in the future all journeymen will be employed by notifying the union's office of vacancies or increases in the office, and that no more apprentices, especially women apprentices, shall be engaged by the firm until part of the large number now engaged complete their time. Women employes are given a wage advance of $1 a week and the union scale for men shall be observed. It is said that negotiations have been conducted for the past six months.

EMPLOYERS DISCRIMINATE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 14.—Local trade unionists charge that the recently organized association of furniture manufacturers, which declared for the nonunion shop, are already discriminating against members of trade unions in this city, and that in some instances employers have been so bold as to make that statement as the only reason for the discharge of employes. The bitter seventeen-weeks' strike that was waged a few years ago is recalled, and the organized workers are notifying the public that they will maintain their right to join any organization they see fit. In discussing this question, the local trade union paper says: "If this practice of discrimination continues the employers must assume the responsibility, because steps will be taken to stop it."

STATE TO USE VACANT LANDS.

Sacramento, March 14.—The raising of food products for various state institutions on the 9,000 acres of land owned by the state will soon begin. The California State Board of Control has made arrangements with Dean Hunt, of the University of California, whereby the latter will supervise the raising of crops on all farms connected with prisons and hospitals. It is proposed to conduct the venture on a scientific basis. Intensive methods will be used and experts from the university will make soil surveys and soil analyses to determine the kind of crops suitable at the different institutions, whose inmates will perform all manual labor.

MACHINISTS ON STRIKE.

Georgetown, S. C., March 14.—The first strike in the history of Georgetown county is now on because of Superintendent Emmart's order that no extra wages shall be paid for overtime or Sunday work in the shops of the Georgetown and Western Railway company's shops at Andrews. A refusal to rescind the order resulted in a walkout by the machinists, who have heretofore received time-and-one-half for this work. The strikers are affiliated to the International Association of Machinists and have the support of the entire community.

COURT UPHOLDS LABOR LAW.

Boston, March 14.—The law that provides employers advertising for workers in strike times shall state that fact is not class legislation and is therefore constitutional, is the declaration of the Supreme Judicial Court of this state, in the case of Commonwealth vs. Libbey. The court held that the law did not create privileges, and that it did not interfere with the right to pursue happiness or unreasonably interfere with the conduct of business so as to violate the constitutional right to contract for the purpose of acquiring property.

MAKES PLEA FOR SEAMEN.

Washington, March 14.—In discussing the seamen's bill, now pending in Congress, President Furuseth, of the International Seamen's Union, told the House Merchant Marine Committee that wages of seamen the world over had been stationary the last sixty-nine years. He said stewards and firemen drilled in pulling boats in fine weather could not be relied upon to save life, or even lower boats successfully, in a storm, and that vessels should carry sufficient competent seamen to man each lifeboat.

MACHINISTS CONFER.

St. Louis, March 14.—President Johnson, the executive board, business agents, and organizers of the International Association of Machinists from all sections of the country are in conference in this city on matters of interest to their organization. It is believed that an exchange of ideas and a statement of conditions throughout the jurisdiction will be helpful.

PICTURE OPERATORS WIN.

Birmingham, Ala., March 14.—The Machine Picture Operators are steadily winning a strike started last October against the picture theaters in this city. At the present time only one house is nonunion, and the struggle is practically at an end.

MACHINISTS MAKE GAINS.

Baltimore, March 14.—Machinists in this city have made such pronounced gains the past year that they are attracting the attention of locals affiliated to the International Association of Machinists. Six new union shop agreements, benefiting 200 machinists, have been secured. The eight-hour day will be established May 1, 1914, by reducing the working time in steps of fifteen minutes each. The minimum rate in these shops has been increased from 33 1-2 to 37 1-2 cents an hour. The same agreement has been signed with four large shops that recognise the machinists' union for the first time. The eight-hour day will become effective May 12, 1914, at the plant of the Crown Cork and Seal Company. The minimum rate has been increased from 36 1-9 to 40 5-8 cents an hour and leading hands increased from 41 1-3 to 45 5-8 cents an hour. None but good standing members are to be employed. The agreement affects 275. Nearly a score of other concerns are listed among those who have conceded the shorter work day and increased wage scale of the machinists, who have enlarged their membership over one-half, and whose progress has had an inspiring effect on other craftsmen in this city.

CONVICT LABOR BILL PASSED.

Washington, March 14.—By a vote of 302 to 3 the House of Representatives passed the Booher-Hughes bill, which was unanimously indorsed by the House Committee on Labor. The bill provides that all goods, wares, and merchandise manufactured, produced, or mined wholly or in part by convict labor in one state or territory and transported into another state shall be subject, on arrival, to the operation of all convict labor laws in such state or territory. The friends of convict labor have heretofore shielded themselves behind the theory that laws of this character were an interference with interstate commerce, but the vote in the House of Representatives would indicate an acceptance of the views of trade unionists, that when this labor comes in competition with free labor it tends to lower living standards and is, therefore, a menace to society. A similar bill, introduced in the Senate by Senator Hughes, is now pending in that body, and its passage is predicted. The American Federation of Labor has insistently urged the adoption of this principle, and gave its best efforts to secure the bill's adoption by the House of Representatives.

GIRLS WAGE GOOD FIGHT.

Toledo, March 14.—A committee from the Central Labor Union asked the common council to appoint a committee to investigate the strike of 500 girls against the General Electric Company. The request was complied with. When the company located in this city a street was closed at its request, and now the unionists are attacking the legality of this action, claiming that the company has not lived up to its agreement with the city. Continued wage reductions forced the girls on strike. They were then organized and chartered by the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Local trade unionists are assessing themselves to support the girls. Two "tag days" have netted the strikers several thousand dollars, contributed by all classes of citizens. The girls have had no breaks in their ranks and are determined to secure a living wage.

UNIONS AMALGAMATE.

Chicago, March 14.—In line with the established policy of the American Federation of Labor to amalgamate and federate trade unions, a meeting of interested trade unionists, presided over by President Gompers, was held in this city to unite the Associated Union of Steam Shovelmen with the International Brotherhood of Steam Shovelmen and Dredgmen. President Gompers and Ex-Vice President John Mitchell acted as a committee to draw up the agreement, which was accepted by the representatives present. A committee to revise the constitution was appointed with instructions to submit the amended document to the joint membership for ratification. It is believed the vote on this proposal will be practically unanimous.

BUTTON WORKERS STRIKE.

Rochester, N. Y., March 14.—Button sawyers employed by the Rochester Button company struck because of the enforcement of a new rule which will result in wage reductions. Piece work is in vogue, and the chairman of the strikers' committee admitted that the new rule would not affect him, but would materially reduce the wages of his fellows, and for that reason he was "with them." The union is chartered direct by the A. F. of L., as there is no national or international organization in this industry.

AVERTS TELEGRAPH STRIKE.

Portland, Ore., March 14.—The United States Board of Mediation and Arbitration has averted a strike of telegraphers employed by the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company. In an agreement signed with the Order of Railroad Telegraphers the road agrees to provide better working conditions and increase wages in certain branches of employment. The wire men had approved a strike vote, but held an enforcement of the decision in abeyance until the federal authorities endeavored to adjust the differences.

TO CONFER AGAIN.

Indianapolis, March 14.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers and operators in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Western Pennsylvania will hold another conference, at Chicago, beginning March 17, and attempt to adjust the differences. The recent conference at Philadelphia adjourned without reaching an adjustment. The Miners' agreement in the four States expire the last of the month, and the workers are striving to make a settlement without resorting to strike.

RETAIL CLERKS FORM UNION.

Sioux City, March 14.—Over 250 Retail Clerks of both sexes in this city have signed an application for a charter from the International Retail Clerks' association. During the past few months several large stores have reduced the hours of labor, and the clerks are determined to not only make this practice universal, but also secure other betterments. It is stated that some of the managers are in sympathy with this movement, because it will create a uniform condition.

QUARRY WORKERS GAIN.

Red Granite, Wis., March 14.—The strike of paving cutters and quarrymen in this section is now confined to the Wisconsin Granite company and the American Granite company, as four concerns in this district have settled with both organizations and most of the union men have returned to work. Quarry Workers are urged to stay away from this section until a complete victory is assured.

OUR INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS

Washington, March 14.—"Yesterday the rights of man were rhetorical; today they are economic—the right to work, the right to a decent home and comfortable living and the right to bring children into the world without wondering how in the name of God you are to bring them up," said Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations, in an interview on the work his commission is trying to do. "It is imperative," continued Mr. Walsh, "that we divest our minds of prejudices and preconceptions, but it is equally important that the public do likewise, and not embarrass the commission by partisanships and old angers. Some word must be found that will bring a sense of our essential oneness home to every man, woman and child in the country, so that we may have co-operation, not antagonism. Industrialism has come to us like lightning out of a clear sky. Fifty years ago we were an agricultural people, living in rural districts and small towns, in the most part, and having a chance of getting into the firm whenever we took a job. And now. Huge and still huger cities, sucking the very marrow out of the country—a change in employment from the small store to one monster corporation that squats in one state and exercises tentacular activities in twenty. It has come so suddenly that we have not had time to adjust ourselves to the new conditions. We are still going along as though there has been no economic earthquake.

"A living wage has come to be as much of a catch word as infant industries and pauper labor of Europe. What is a living wage? I know what it is for me, and that's all. Progress has made many new pleasures and privileges, and these must be shared equitably. There is neither sense nor justice in the calm assumption that the refinements and beauties of life are only capable of being enjoyed by a certain upper class, and the mass of people have no higher aspirations than a full belly, a warm back, and a sheltered head. Scarce a day goes by that I am not confronted with the fixed belief that in this country there is one law for the poor and one for the rich man. Among the leaders of organized labor that I meet there is a bitter unanimity in declaring against the distinction that the law makes between strikes and boycotts. If it is lawful to strike, they argue, why is it unlawful to boycott, for the refusal to patronize an antagonistic employer differs little, if at all, from refusing to work for an antagonistic employer. Nor is there any better feeling toward the injunction. They claim and challenge dispute that this weapon of the law is reserved for the sole use of employers and that no one ever heard of any union being granted this relief.

"With regard to the anti-trust law, the worker compares the possibility of the United Hatters having to pay a fine of $240,000 with the dissolution of the Standard Oil Company at an enormous profit, and the two penalties seem somewhat unequal to them. As Prof. Seager, of Columbia University, says, these anomalies are largely responsible for industrial bitterness and violence, since nothing is so fatal to a law-abiding disposition as a conviction that the law itself is unjust and that its administration is unfair."

The wage workers of our country are represented on this commission by Vice President O'Connell and Treasurer Lennon, of the American Federation of Labor, and President Garretson, of the Order of Railway Conductors.

LOW WAGES FOR OHIO GIRLS.

Columbus, Ohio, March 14.—From $3 to $5 a week is the prevailing wage of girls under eighteen years of age employed in Ohio mercantile establishments, and the prevailing wage of those over eighteen is from $6 to $8. These are the conclusions of Prof. M. B. Hammond, member of the State Industrial Commission, after compiling the wage records of 15,744 girls employed in 1,086 mercantile establishments. Commissioner Hammond says these wages are not average, but are "typical." The records show that 1,109 girls are under eighteen years of age and 14,635 more than eighteen years. Of the latter number 3,133 get less than $6, 5,960 less than $7, and 5,542 more than $8 a week. Of the 1,109 girls under eighteen 209 get less than $3, 755 from $3 to $5, and 145 more than $5 a week. The investigator says that over 41 per cent of all women and girls employed receive less than $7 a week. Employers made the reports to the commission.

TRAIN MEN PROTEST.

St. Paul, Minn., March 14.—The Northern Pacific railroad is attempting to change the wage schedule of its conductors and trainmen, which these workers declare will result in substantial reductions. Under the present schedule a conductor or brakeman is paid for at least 100 miles at the rate of 4.18 cents a mile, no matter how short his run is. For all additional work he is paid 41 cents an hour. This the road would eliminate, and the brotherhoods of the interested workers have the matter now in charge.

BOTTLERS ASK INCREASE.

Denver, March 14.—Soda bottlers in this city have presented a new schedule to their employers which calls for an average wage increase of $1 a week and a reduction of hours for inside men from nine to eight. The bottlers believe they will have no serious difficulty in negotiating the new rates, which are intended to go in effect April 1.

BAD SANITATION.

Huntington, W. Va., March 14.—Dr. Thomas H. Evans, of this city, has received a letter on the ravages of hookworm from Prof. C. W. Stiles, in charge of the United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, at Wilmington, N. C. Prof. Stiles states that he took a trip through the Pocahontas coal mining region in West Virginia on one of the mine rescue cars sent out by the United States government, and found hookworms in practically every place that he visited, but the clinical appearances were not so marked as in some other portions of the south. In referring to conditions in the mining districts, Prof. Stiles said: "The general sanitation of the mining district in question is very favorable to the development of hookworm disease. In fact, I do not see how the mining companies can subject their labor to, or even permit its labor to live, under the awful sanitary conditions that I saw. I was not in any one place in West Virginia long enough to treat any cases, but simply made a very rapid trip, in order to determine the presence of the infection."